AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A method for controlling the use of a resource by at least one process in a data processing system having an inter-process communication mechanism provided with storage facilities that do not rely on the functioning of processes that use the inter-process communication mechanism, comprising the steps of:

        providing a licence controller;

        communicating, at an allowed work unit rate for the resource, between the at least one process and the licence controller by storing at least one parameter in the storage facilities provided by the inter-process communication; and, in the at least one process,

        controlling the use of the resource by the process according to the parameter.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of communicating comprises having the licence controller ~~repeatedly~~ update an inter-process communication of a process according to the use of the resource allowed for the process.

3.   (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step of communicating comprises having a process ~~repeatedly~~ read from its inter-process communication the parameter.

4.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of communicating comprises having the licence controller read from the inter-process communication of a process the actual use of the resource by the process.

5.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of controlling comprises, for the process, adapting its operation to the allowed work unit rate for the process.

6.   Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the processes comprise a plurality of identical processes, and wherein the step of communicating comprises having the licence controller update the inter-process communication of said identical

processes while sharing use of the resource between said identical processes.

[[8]] 7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the processing system is a multiprocessing system.

[[9]] 8. (Currently amended) A processing system comprising:
-       a resource and at least one process using the resource;
-       a license controller;
-       an inter-process communication between the license controller and each process provided with storage facilities that do not rely on the functioning of processes that use the inter-process communication mechanism,
        wherein an inter-process communication contains information representative of the allowed use of the resources by its process.

[[10]] 9. (Currently amended) A processing system as claimed in claim [[9]] 8 wherein the license controller comprises program elements for communicating an allowed work unit rate for the resource between the at least one process and the licence controller by storing at least one parameters in the storage facilities provided by the inter-process communication; and the process comprises program elements for controlling the use of the resource by the process according to the parameter.

[[11]] 10. (Currently amended) A processing system as claimed in claim [[10]] 9 wherein the licence controller is arranged to repeatedly update the inter-process communication of a process according to the use of the resource allowed for the process.

[[12]] 11. (Currently amended) A processing system as claimed in claim [[11]] 10, wherein the process is arranged to repeatedly read the parameter from its inter-process communication.

[[13]] 12. (Currently amended) A processing system as claimed in claim [[11]] 10 wherein the licence controller is arranged to update the inter-process communication of a plurality of identical processes to enable sharing use of the resource between said identical processes.

[[14]] 13. (Currently amended) A processing system as claimed in claim [[10]] 9 wherein the processing system is a multiprocessing system.